

What is claimed is:

- 5           1)     A circuit, comprising:  
              a clock circuit capable of generating a clock signal in  
              response to an adjustable phase step-size; and  
              a sampler, coupled to the clock circuit, capable of receiving,  
              in response to the clock signal, a data signal having a variable data  
              bit-rate.
- 10          2)     The circuit of claim 1, wherein the clock circuit includes a phase  
              adjust step-size logic capable of outputting an adjustable  
              magnitude of the phase step-size in response to the variable data  
              bit-rate.
- 15          3)     The circuit of claim 1, wherein the phase adjust step-size logic is  
              capable of outputting an adjustable direction of the phase step-size  
              in response to the variable data bit-rate.
- 20          4)     The circuit of claim 1, wherein the circuit includes at least four  
              stages, each having a respective stage output, wherein the clock  
              circuit includes stall logic capable of holding the third and fourth  
              stage outputs in response to the first and second stage outputs.
- 25          5)     The circuit of claim 4, wherein the circuit comprises 6 pipeline  
              stages.

- 6) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the variable data bit-rate is from approximately 0 parts per million ("ppm") to approximately 5000 ppm.
- 5 7) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the adjustable phase step-size is adjusted in response to a first step-size corresponding to data phase drift and a second step-size corresponding to the variable data bit-rate.
- 10 8) The circuit of claim 7, wherein the first step size and the second step-size are summed to obtain the adjustable phase step-size.
- 15 9) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the clock circuit includes an indicator capable of adjusting the adjustable phase step-size responsive to the variable data bit-rate.
- 20 10) The circuit of claim 9, wherein the clock circuit includes a counter for obtaining a first step-size and the indicator provides a second step-size, wherein the first step size and the second step size are summed to obtain the adjustable phase step-size.
- 11) The circuit of claim 9, wherein the indicator includes a state machine for detecting the variable data bit-rate.
- 25 12) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the clock circuit includes an averaging circuit capable of averaging a plurality of up signals to obtain an average up value and a plurality of down signals to obtain an average down value, and outputting an adjust signal having the

selectable phase adjust size in response to a comparison of the average up value and the average down value.

5           13) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the circuit is included in a receive circuit coupled to a transmit circuit capable of transmitting the data signal.

10           14) A circuit, comprising:  
              a clock circuit capable of generating a clock signal in response to a phase adjust signal;  
              a sampler, coupled to the clock circuit, capable of receiving, in response to the clock signal, a data signal having a variable data bit-rate; and,  
              wherein the clock circuit comprises,  
15               a first stage, coupled to the sampler, capable of outputting a first stage output signal in response to the data signal;  
              a second stage, coupled to the first stage, capable of outputting a second stage output signal in response to the first stage output signal;  
20               a third stage, coupled to the second stage, capable of outputting the phase adjust signal in response to the second stage output signal; and,  
              stall logic, coupled to the first, second and third stages, and capable of holding the phase adjust signal in response  
25               to the first and second stage output signals.

15) The circuit of claim 14, wherein the first and second stages are successive stages.

- 16) The circuit of claim 14, wherein the first and second stages are included in a phase detector.
- 5 17) The circuit of claim 14, wherein the third stage is included in a phase adjust controller.
- 18) A circuit, comprising:
- 10 a clock circuit capable of generating a clock signal in response to a phase adjust signal having an adjustable step-size; and,
- a sampler capable of receiving, in response to the clock signal, a data signal having a variable data bit-rate;
- wherein the clock circuit includes,
- 15 a first stage, coupled to the sampler, capable of outputting a first stage output signal in response to the data signal;
- a second stage, coupled to the first stage, capable of outputting a second stage output signal in response to the first stage output signal;
- 20 a third stage, coupled to the second stage, capable of outputting the phase adjust signal, having a first step-size, in response to the second stage output signal;
- stall logic, coupled to the first, second and third stages, capable of holding the phase adjust signal in response to the first and second stage output signals;
- 25 an indicator, coupled to the third stage, capable of outputting a second step-size in response to the variable data bit-rate; and,

a counter, coupled to the third stage and the indicator, capable of outputting the phase adjust signal having an adjustable step-size responsive to the first and second step-sizes.

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19) The circuit of claim 18, wherein the first and second stages are successive stages.

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20) The circuit of claim 18, wherein the first and second stages are included in a phase detector.

21) The circuit of claim 18, wherein the counter is capable of summing the first step-size and the second step-size to provide the adjustable step-size. .

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22) The circuit of claim 18, wherein the indicator includes a state machine for detecting the variable data bit-rate.

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23) The circuit of claim 22, wherein the indicator is capable of outputting a first variable frequency phase step-size responsive to a first variable bit-rate in a first state and capable of outputting a second variable frequency phase step-size responsive to a second variable bit-rate in a second state.

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24) The circuit of claim 23, wherein the first state transitions to a second state responsive to a difference of a number of up signals to a number of down signals, during a period of time, and a threshold value.

- 25) A circuit comprising,  
a clock circuit configured to generate a clock signal in  
response a phase adjust signal; and  
a sampler configured to receive a data signal in response to  
the clock signal;  
wherein the clock circuit comprises,  
an averaging circuit capable to output the phase  
adjust signal in response to an average up signal, obtained  
from up signals in a predetermined period of time, and an  
average down signal, obtained from down signal in the  
predetermined period of time.
- 26) The circuit of claim 25, wherein the averaging circuit includes:  
a mixer counter capable to output the phase adjust signal.
- 27) The circuit of claim 25, wherein the averaging circuit includes:  
an accumulator/comparator, coupled to the mixer counter,  
capable of incrementing or decrementing the phase adjust signal  
responsive to a comparison of the average up value and the  
average down value.
- 28) The circuit of claim 25, wherein the circuit is included in a receive  
circuit coupled to a transmit circuit capable of transmitting the data  
signal.
- 29) An apparatus, comprising:  
a transmit circuit capable of transmitting a data signal having  
a variable data bit-rate; and,

a receive circuit capable to generate a clock signal in response to the data signal,

wherein the receive circuit includes,

5 a sampler capable of receiving the data signal in response to the clock signal; and,

a clock circuit, coupled to the sampler, capable of generating the clock signal in response to a phase adjust signal having an adjustable phase step-size.

10 30) A method for tracking a signal having a variable data bit-rate, comprising the steps of:

receiving the signal;

selecting an update rate; and,

15 selecting an adjustable step-size for an adjust signal responsive to the signal.

31) The method of claim 30, wherein the receiving step includes:  
sampling the signal in response to the adjust signal.

20 32) The method of claim 30, wherein selecting an adjustable step-size includes:

determining a first step-size based on the variable data bit-rate of the signal;

determining a second step-size;

25 summing the first and second step-sizes to obtain the adjustable step-size.

33) A device, comprising:

a sampler capable of obtaining a signal having a variable data bit-rate in response to a clock signal; and,

means for adjusting the clock signal in response to the variable data bit-rate.

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